

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9193

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: MEXICAN PRESS JUBILANT OVER END OF SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA

1. ALL NINE MAJOR MEXICO CITY DAILIES EDITORIALIZED JULY 31 THAT THE TERMINATION OF THE OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA AT THE SAN JOSE MEETING WAS A VICTORY FOR MEXICAN DIPLOMACY AND A VINDICATION OF MEXICO'S STEADFAST REFUSAL TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH CUBA. FIVE COLUMNISTS PUBLISHED SIMILAR OPINIONS. NONE PORTRAYED THIS AS A DEFEAT FOR THE US.

2. GOVERNMENT-LINING EL NACIONAL WAS PREDICTABLY FULSOME IN ITS PRAISE FOR THE RESOLUTION, WHICH "LIQUIDATES AN INJURIOUS SITUATION" IN IMTRA-HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS, AND FOR THE ROLES PLAYED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, "THE STANDARD-BEARER OF THIS JUST CAUSE," MEXICAN DIPLOMACY, WHICH SUCCEEDED DESPITE "DIFFICULT AND COMPLICATED CONDITIONS."

3. IN ADDITION, THREE FOREIGN AMBASSADORS COMMENTED TO THE PRESS ON THE RESOLUTION. COSTA RICA'S AMBARYFVY, MARIALENA ORTIZ DE TERAN, THOUGHT THAT "THE END OF SANCTIONS WILL PERMIT THE UNITING OF THOUSANDS OF CUBAN FAMILIES SEPARATED BY THE REVOLUTION" AND THAT IT WOULD

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BENEFIT THE CUBAN PEOPLE MORE THAN THE CASTRO REGIME.

NOTING THAT COSTA RICA DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT, SHE ADDED "I THINK, THAT ONCE THE SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED, THESE CAN BE REESTABLISHED." THE HONDURAN AMBASSADOR, DR. TITO H. CARCAMO, REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED MEXICO IN ITS EFFORTS TO CHANGE HEMISPHERIC POLICY TOWARD CUBA (SIC), THAT THE SANCTIONS WERE NOT JUSTIFIED, AND THAT "NOW LATIN AMERICA IS AGAIN UNITED." DR. CARCAMO ADDED THAT HONDURAS HAS STRONG COMMERCIAL TIES WITH CUBA BUT THAT HE HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES. ECUADORIAN AMBASSADOR, RICARDO MARTINEZ COBO, SAID THAT ECUADOR HAD VOTED AGAINST THE CONDEMNATION OF CUBA AT THE PUNTA DEL ESTE CONFERENCE (SIC). PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO QUOTE MARTINEZ AS SAYING: "IT CAN BE SAID THAT WE (ECUADOR) HAVE NEVERBROKEN RELATIONS WITH CUBA (SIC)."

4. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS DECLINED COMMENT ON THE RESOLUTION SAYING THAT AMBASSADOR FERNANDO LOPEZ MUINO IS IN HAVANA AND THAT THEY EXPECTED TO LEARN THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT ON HIS RETURN. JOVA

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